

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A method of modulating development in a plant, the method comprising:

introducing into a plant an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a an expression-inhibiting polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the expression-inhibiting polynucleotide comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the plant exhibits modulated development comprises:

- (a) modulated modulation of floral organ identity;
- (b) modulated modulation of floral organ number;
- (c) increased modulation of meristem size; or
- (d) increased endosperm size a delay in flowering;
- (e) ~~modulation of methylation of chromosomal DNA in the plant; or~~
- (f) ~~modulation of expression of the MEDEA gene of the plant.~~

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the expression-inhibiting polynucleotide encodes polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the expression-inhibiting polynucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the expression-inhibiting polynucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the expression-inhibiting polynucleotide comprises at least 100 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2 ~~organ identity is modulated~~.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (New) A method of delaying flowering in a plant, the method comprising: introducing into a plant an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a DMT polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, encoding a polypeptide at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide comprises a leucine zipper and a nuclear localization signal sequence, thereby delaying flowering of the plant compared to a plant lacking the expression cassette.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

52. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the promoter is a tissue-specific promoter.